Production of Groundnut

*455. SHRI RAMNARAYAN GOSWAMI:
SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the average per hectare production of groundnut in India is far less than the average production in other countries; and

(b) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken to increase the average per hectare production of the same in the country?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BHAJAN LAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In order to increase the area, production and productivity of various oil seeds, including groundnut, two Central/Centrally Sponsored Schemes, viz. National Oilseeds Development Project and Oil seeds Production Thrust Project are being implemented in major groundnut growing States. Under these projects financial assistance is being provided to the States for various components, including seeds, plant protection measures, demonstrations, supply of improved implements and sprinkler sets, application of sulphur and control of white grub, etc.

New policy against natural calamities

*456. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:
SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a new policy had recently been framed for assistance to the areas prone to natural calamities by taking up long-term projects which would automatically help the affected persons and that it would be the district units which would be assessed for such assistance; and

(b) if so, what are its main features and what progress has it made during the worst drought of the century?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BHAJAN LAL): (a) and (b) Natural calamities with reference to agriculture include flood, cyclone and drought. Since flood and cyclone are short-run, they are tackled based on the situation. Whereas, drought is tackled on a long-term basis. The long-term measuers are being promoted through the appropriate schemes for mellowing the effect of drought.

The main features of the scheme are: —

(i) In-situ water harvesting

(ii) Run-off management through diversion drain, checkdams, percolation tanks, nala bunds etc.

(iii) Introduction of crops plantation and pastures development which can sustain the impact of drought.

Improvement in the working condition of Glass Factory Workers

457. SHRIMATI KANAK MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to improve the working conditions of the workers of glass factories in the country; and

(b) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) The provisions regarding safety, health and welfare of workers employed in factories are contained in the Factories Act, 1948. The State Government and the Union Territory Administrations frame Rules under the Act and are responsible for enforcement of the statutory provisions. The Central Government have circulated model rules concerning safety and health of workers in glass factories and a large number of State Governments and Union Territory Administrations have adopted these model rules.

Consensus on reservation for other backward classes

*458. SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to refer to the reply to Starred Question 110 given in the Rajya Sabha on the